

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action indicates that the inventions are distinct as "the device of the group I invention could be made by a process materially different from that of the group II invention... the process of claim 18 can be materially altered by replacing the source dopant ion implantation step and/or the body dopant ion implantation step by a step or steps involving the administering of dopants through thermal diffusion".

In response to this requirement, Applicants elect the Group I claims, Claims 1-16, without traverse, for initial prosecution on the merits.

Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of the application, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Certificate of Facsimile Transmission**

I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein has been transmitted via facsimile to the US Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 308-7722 on February 8, 2002.

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